

# Chapter 14

## Formatting Date and Time

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❖ Learning how to Format Date and Time

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### 14.1 Formatting Date and Time Using Predefined Formats

Very often, we need to format date and time in a Vb2010 program. You can format date and time using predefined formats and user-defined formats. The predefined formats of date and time are shown in Table 14.1

Format	Explanation
Format (Now, "General date")	Formats the current date and time
Format (Now, "Long Date")	Displays the current date in long format
Format (Now, "Short date")	Displays current date in short format
Format (Now, "Long Time")	Display the current time in long format
Format (Now, "Short Time")	Display the current time in short format

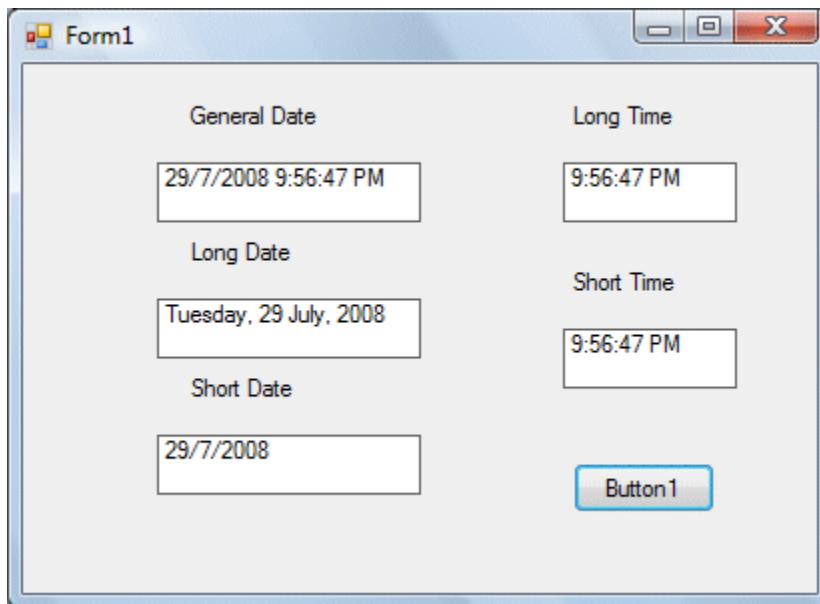
**Table 14.1** Predefined formats of date and time

\* Instead of "General date", you can also use the abbreviated format "G" , i.e. Format (Now, "G"). And for "Long Time", you can use the abbreviated format "T". As for "Short Time", you may use the abbreviated format "t"

#### Example 14.1

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
Label1.Text = Format(Now, "General Date")
Label2.Text = Format(Now, "Long Date")
Label3.Text = Format(Now, "short Date")
Label4.Text = Format(Now, "Long Time")
Label5.Text = Format(Now, "Short Time")
End Sub
```

The output is shown in the Figure 14.1 below:



**Figure 14.1: Time in different Format**

## 14.2 Formatting Date and Time Using User-Defined formats

Besides using the predefined formats, you can also use the user-defined formatting functions. The general format of a user-defined for date/time is

Format (expression, style)

Format	Explanation
Format (Now, "M")	Displays current month and date
Format (Now, "MM")	Displays current month in double digits
Format (Now, "MMM")	Displays abbreviated name of the current month
Format (Now, "MMMM")	Displays full name of the current month.
Format (Now, "dd/MM/yyyy")	Displays current date in the day/month/year format
Format (Now, "MMM,d,yyyy")	Displays current date in the Month, Day, Year Format
Format (Now, "h:mm:ss tt")	Displays current time in hour:minute:second format and show am/pm
Format (Now, "MM/dd/yyyy h:mm:ss")	Displays current date and time in hour:minute:second format

**Table 14.2: some of the user-defined format functions for date and time**

**Example 14.2**

Private Sub Button1\_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click, Button2.Click, Button3.Click

Label1.Text = Format(Now, "M")

Label2.Text = Format(Now, "MM")

Label3.Text = Format(Now, "MMM")

Label4.Text = Format(Now, "MMMM")

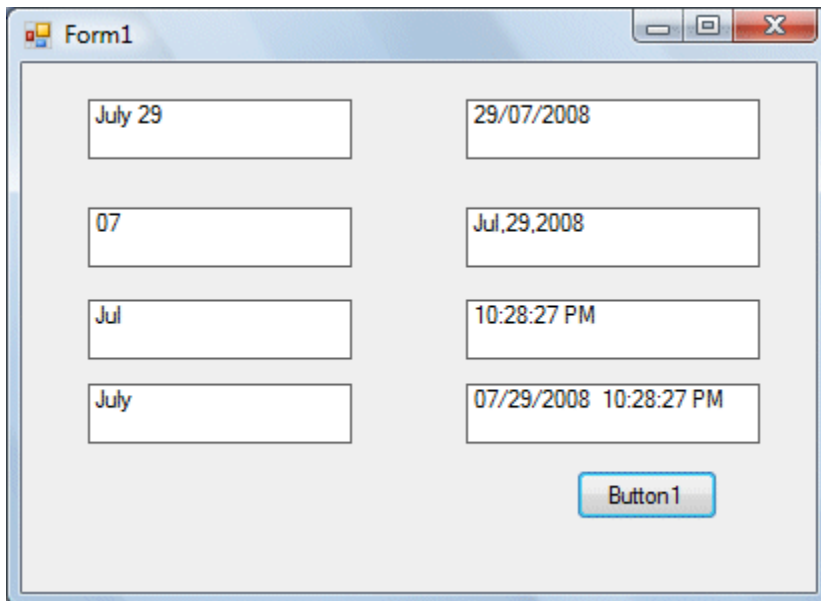
Label5.Text = Format(Now, "dd/MM/yyyy")

Label6.Text = Format(Now, "MMM,d,yyyy")

Label7.Text = Format(Now, "h:mm:ss tt")

Label8.Text = Format(Now, "MM/dd/yyyy h:mm:ss tt")

End Sub



**Figure 14.1: Date and Time in different formats**

### 14.3 Formatting Time Using ToString Method

Another way to format date and time is to use the ToString method. ToString is used together with the standard date and time format specifiers.

For example, to format present date of the current culture in the computer that by default is using the US system, we can use the syntax

```
Now.ToString("d")
```

It displays the date as short date in the form of **mm/dd/yy**

For other culture, you have to include the culture code. You can refer to the culture code in Appendix II. For example, Malaysia culture code is ms-MY, the time format is **dd/mm/yy**, similar to the French culture code. The syntax to include the culture code is as follows:

```
Now.ToString("d", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("ms-MY"))
```

Some of the standard date and time format specifiers

Format specifier	Description	Examples
"d"	Displays date in the short date pattern such as mm/dd/yy.	<p>Now.ToString("d") displays the date in the mm/dd/yy format.</p> <p>Now.ToString("d", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date in dd/mm/yy format</p>
"D"	Displays date in the Long date pattern.	<p>Now.ToString("D") displays the date as Monday, November 07, 2011</p> <p>Now.ToString("D", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date as</p>

		mardi 7 novembre 2011
"f"	Displays full date/time pattern (short time).	<p>Now.ToString("f") displays the date/time as Tuesday, November 07, 2011 12:08</p> <p>Now.ToString("f", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) Displays the date time as mardi 7 novembre 2011 00:08</p>
"F"	Displays full date/time pattern (long time).	<p>Now.ToString("F") displays the date/time as Tuesday, November 8, 2011 12:08:30 AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("F", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date time as mardi 8 novembre 2011 00:15:31</p>
"g"	Displays general date /time pattern (short time).	<p>Now.ToString("g") displays the date/time as 11/08/2011 12:08 AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("g", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date time as 08/11/2011 00:08</p>
"G"	Displays general date /time pattern (long time).	<p>Now.ToString("G") displays date/time as 11/08/2011 12:08:30 AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("G", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date time as 08/11/2011 00:08:30</p>
"M", "m"	Displays month /day pattern.	Now.ToString ("M") displays month/day as November 08

		<p>Now.ToString("M", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays month/day as</p> <p>8 novembre</p>
"t"	Display short time pattern.	<p>Now.ToString ("t") displays time as</p> <p>12.08AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("t", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays time as</p> <p>00.08</p>
"T"	Displays long time pattern.	<p>Now.ToString ("T") displays time as</p> <p>12:08:30 AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("T", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays time as</p> <p>00.08:30</p>
"Y", "y"	Displays year / month pattern.	<p>Now.ToString ("Y") displays year/month as</p> <p>November, 2011</p> <p>Now.ToString("Y", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays year/month as</p> <p>novembre 2011</p>

**Summary**

You learned how to format date and time in this chapter.

- In Section 14.1, you learned how to format date and time using predefined format.
- In Section 14.2, you learned how to format date and time using user-defined format.
- In section 14.2, you learned how to format date and time using ToString method.